

**Drawing 300  
Mid-Term Self-Assessment  
And  
Independent Work Proposal**

**By Kevin Dykstra  
Student ID# 4566505**

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**DRAW 300 – Section AA  
Professor: Janice Flood Turner**

# Drawing 300 Self-Assessment

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## First Semester Drawing Experience

My goals for this year were

- 1. I want to explore, learn, and master drawing mediums, methods and techniques*
- 2. Develop artistically and advance my visual vocabulary*
- 3. Express myself and communicate through my drawings an intimate relationship between the artist, the subject and the viewer*

My first semester not only gave me the opportunity to set in motion my exploration of these goals but through artistic investigation and self awareness, the first semester also graciously gave me precious insight into my past, present and where I want to go. I say “set in motion” because these goals while implying an end, they have no end to them. They were expressly set not to reach a goal that I could then say I was there but rather a direction, an artistic path, an artistic process that integrated with my spiritual path will continue to encourage me to inquire, learn, integrate and grow. I feel that my work this semester while at times was an internal struggle and very difficult, it was more successful that I could have hoped for. It was a struggle because of the emotions that my drawings brought up for me as I delved into the source that was motivating me to draw them. It was at the same time interesting and difficult to observe what things it also brought up for my classmates. And in the end it was a success because of the realizations that it brought for me personally.

One of my goals was to explore different mediums, methods and techniques. I initially started working on different kinds of papers trying different textures, colours and weights and after the first critique I moved to working on gessoed canvas. Initially my drawings were on the same sized paper but it was suggested during the class critique that I try a larger scale, so when I moved to canvas supports I decided to work on 4 ft by 6 ft surfaces. I also tried many different mediums from ink, to dry pastel, to charcoal. Adapting different techniques to the different mediums I was able to explore, create and produced the desired affects that I was looking for. I worked hard outside of the class to apply what I felt I was learning in class during the free model sessions at the beginning of each class. I feel that my technique improved not only through my own investigation at home but especially through the classroom studies and exercises. These exercises forced me to step out of my controlled form of drawing and by pure necessity due to the speed at which we needed to draw the models in motion I had to open up my drawing style. I feel my most successful pieces from this perspective where the small quick drawings in my sketch book, the quick model drawings in class and the large charcoal drawings on canvas. My preferred and perhaps most successful medium was the heavy, deep, rich compressed charcoal that could be used to create many different effects. The richness of the black charcoal and the raw application using my hands without any other mediums appeals greatly to my sense of grounding.

Even if the advancements in method and technique were all I had learned in the first 4 months I could have said that this semester was a success. However, the real success came on a much more personal level and in many ways took me completely by surprise. I had hoped to develop a more intimate way to communicate with the audience and what I accomplished was a more intimate conversation with myself that was so deep and profound that at times I found it difficult to contain the contentment I was feeling from my realizations. These personal discoveries all revolved around the subject of my drawings and the apparent source and inspirations of these subjects. As was planned in the beginning of the year, my investigation was going to be centered on the female nude. On the surface it was very easy for me to say

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that I was motivated to draw the female nude simply because I was interested on investigating the figure and that I found the female body more appealing. But there are a lot of ways to draw the female nude! And why did I “really” choose the female body? Was I really being honest with myself as to why? Because I didn’t have live models to work from, I choose to use photos or drawings of female nudes from old books that my grandfather had left for me. So why did I choose this source material versus something else? As I had mentioned my previous self-assessment, my grandfather was my personal hero and a very large influence in my life. Was my drive to use this material based on some sort of respect for him or some form of communicating with him? These and many other questions are the types of things that came up for me during the last 4 months. Fortunately so did the answers! Clearly, regardless of the source material or my supposed inspiration, I was drawing nudes that were “sexual”, “objectifying”, “pornographic”, “perverse” and “voyeuristic” in nature. Whether I was willing to accept it or not I was no different from many of the other men I know around me.

With these thoughts in mind I was determined to release myself of this ugliness, the question was how? While contemplating and reflecting on these new realizations I somehow connected it with a line a movie I had seen. The line was “people are not identified by their abilities but by the choices they make”. How perfect was that for an answer to my question. In one single second I knew what I had to do. It was so simple it was beautiful. With the awareness and the artistic ability that I have, I simply have the choice to stop!

The End

# Drawing 300 Independent Work Proposal

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### Proposal

With my self-assessment and the great encouragement of my classmates from the class critique I feel slightly torn as to my direction in the second half of the year. I feel motivated to work with various materials and techniques but I am leaning towards continuing my charcoal studies because I still believe they were my most successful in the first semester. My indecision comes more from what my subject matter will be. My classmates really felt like I was on to something with my last set of drawings but in all honesty I don't want to nor do I feel the need to draw in this way. By continuing to draw in such a manner it only condones, encourages and perpetuates something I don't like. My choice is to move on. I do however have 2 other ideas that interest me. One idea would be to continue drawing female nudes that intimately communicates a more honest, caring and compassionate message. The other idea I have is to draw people who inspire me. It is something I have always wanted to do and I'm feeling a strong motivation to now do so.

### Schedule

My planned work schedule is the following:

Description	Completion Date	School Week
Independent Work Proposal presented	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	14
Start of Independent Work Project in class	January 6th	16
Research of source material completed	January 27th	19
Completion of a minimum of 5 finished works	February 24 <sup>th</sup>	22
Slide presentation	March 23rd	24
Completion of a minimum of 10 finished works	April 6th	26
In parallel I will continue to practice and study through the use of sketch book	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	28
In parallel I will create a visual bibliography of artists that have inspired me	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	28
Presentation of 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester portfolio	April 20 <sup>th</sup>	28

### Material List

My planned material list is the following:

Material Description
Dry Mediums – Charcoal, Conté, Hard Pastel, Pencil
Wet Mediums – Ink, Pen, Watercolor
Supports – Paper in a variety of colours and weights – 22 in. x 30 in.
Other – Erasers, brushes and tape